



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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NOAA Fisheries Requests Comments on Action Affecting Snapper-Grouper Species (Comment Period Ends September 2, 2014)

NOAA Fisheries requests comments on a proposed action to re-define the overfished (the population is too small) threshold for select snapper-grouper species. The proposed rule for Regulatory Amendment 21 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Regulatory Amendment 21) published in the *Federal Register* on August 1, 2014 [79 FR 44735].

Regulatory Amendment 21 Action

The proposed action is administrative in nature and would establish new criteria for determining when red snapper, blueline tilefish, gag, black grouper, yellowtail snapper, vermilion snapper, red porgy, and greater amberjack are overfished.

Establishing a new threshold for determining whether or not the above species are considered overfished is expected to prevent the need for restrictive management actions when reductions in the population are due to non-fishing related factors i.e., naturally occurring events such as weather or water temperature shifts.

Request for Comments

Comments on the proposed rule must be received no later than **September 2, 2014**, to be considered by NOAA Fisheries. See the Addresses section for information on where and how to submit comments.

Addresses

The Framework Action and the proposed rule may be obtained from:

- The NOAA Fisheries Web site http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/2014/reg_am21/index.html

You may submit comments by the following methods:

- **Electronic Submission:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2014-0039> click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.
- **Mail:** NOAA Fisheries
Southeast Regional Office
Sustainable Fisheries Division
c/o Kate Michie
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

NOAA Fisheries will accept anonymous comments. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only. Comments received through means not specified in this bulletin may not be considered.

More Information

For more information on the Framework Action, please click on this link to the Framework Action Frequently Asked Questions found at: http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/2014/reg_am21/index.html.